



**SOUTH AUSTRALIA POLICE**  
KEEPING SA SAFE

## **Statistical Notes**

### **General data information and guide to interpretation**

- South Australia Police (SAPOL) reports on selected categories of crime which are aligned to nationally accepted and approved counting rules. [The Australia New Zealand Standard Offence Classification (ANZSOC) as published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS)]
  - Legislative, policy and business practice differences between jurisdictions limit comparability within crime categories. For example, expiable offences in South Australia may vary from or not exist in other jurisdictions - and the offence of Serious Criminal Trespass (SCT) is the equivalent of Burglary or Break and Enter in some other states.
- 
- Offences reported or becoming known to police are recorded and extracted from SAPOL systems at the State and Local Service Area (LSA) levels.
  - The number of offences recorded in a period is determined by the date the offences were reported, not by the date the offences were committed. Thus, offences reported may not have been committed during the reporting period and some data may be affected by the reporting of historical offences, such as past sexual offences.
  - In some circumstances duplication of reporting is avoided when more than one criminal act occurs in a single incident by counting only the most serious offence. For example, where an offence of theft (except motor vehicle theft) is associated with a serious criminal trespass, both offences are recorded but only the major and most serious offence in that one single criminal act is counted.
  - In other circumstances, for example a serious criminal trespass in which a motor vehicle is also stolen, both serious offences would be counted. This would also occur if a person was abducted and raped where the separate offences of kidnapping/abduction and rape would both be counted.
- 
- Statistics published on this site are based on a rolling (current and prior) 12 month period.
  - Data is provisional in that it is accurate at extraction (a point in time) and then 'refreshed' monthly as matters under investigation are clarified. For example, a crime initially recorded as a Serious Criminal Trespass (SCT) may be reclassified later as Property Damage.
  - Monthly variation may reflect seasonality or special events. Care should be taken in analysis as a spike in that category for the month may not be reflective of an overall increase in crime.
  - For an overall total of state crime incidence, refer to the Table. Individual location crime statistics cannot be summarised to form a statewide figure as some statistics cannot be allocated to discrete suburbs.